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PPB 71-1541

5 October 1971

O/PPB Comments

SUBJECT: Symington Amendment

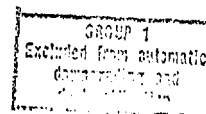
1. Attached is [ ] memorandum to the Director of Central Intelligence analyzing the Symington Amendment to the Defense Procurement Authorization Bill. This Amendment was passed by the Senate yesterday.

2. [ ] memorandum is basically correct and technically accurate except in some cases where it uses the term "expenditure" where it really is talking about certain program levels. The memorandum, however, only addresses certain portions of the Symington Amendment which affect FY 1972. It does not address some very significant portions of the Amendment which apply to 1972 and to future years.

3. Section C of the Amendment says that after FY 1972 no funds may be obligated or expended in, to, for, or on behalf of Laos in any fiscal year unless such funds have been specifically authorized by law enacted after the date of enactment of this Amendment. This means that after FY 1972 it will be necessary to have a specific bill to authorize each and every U. S. activity in, to, for, or on behalf of Laos. It is possible that this will prevent CIA from maintaining a station in Laos under our general authority, and unless we specifically seek new authorization to do so every year after FY 1972.

4. The Amendment also provides that after the date of enactment of this Bill, whenever any request is made to the Congress for appropriation of funds for use in, to, for, or on behalf of Laos, the President must furnish a written report to the Congress explaining the purposes for which such funds are to be used. Another section of the Bill requires the President to submit a quarterly report each fiscal year, including FY 1972, showing the total amount of funds expended in, to, for, or on behalf of Laos by the U. S. Government, and describing the definite purposes for which such funds were used.

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